

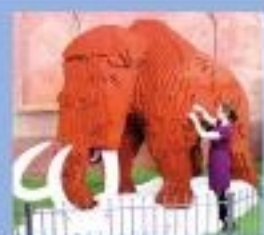
Help on offer to
stalking victims

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Basingstoke goes
back to the ice age

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**What's on in
HAMPSHIRE**

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New designs to bring station into 21st Century **FIRE STATION HQ PLANS TO START**

DELAYED plans for Basingstoke's new £6m fire station will be unveiled tonight.

Basingstoke Fire Station in West Ham Close is due to be bulldozed to make way for a new building.

Residents are invited to a meeting tonight from 6pm until 8pm at the station when the new designs will be revealed.

The current 1960s building holds 10 fire engines, and is one of only two animal rescue units in Hampshire.

By **Katriona Ormiston**

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

It is the biggest station in the county – run by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The three-storey building has been redesigned onto two floors to make it quicker for fire fighters to respond to emergencies.

• Continued on page 3

• Above, the current 1960s Basingstoke Fire Station building and, right, fire fighter Brian Rudman



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Boost set to help ease congestion

A MAJOR traffic pinch point in Basingstoke has been included on a list of projects to get part of a £36 billion Government boost.

The Black Dam roundabout is due to become Basingstoke's first hamburger roundabout when it is finished in March next year.

Improvements to the M3 at Junction 6 and Black Dam roundabout were earmarked by Prime Minister David Cameron on Tuesday to get some of the cash.

The planned £10 million work by the Highways Agency is due to start in July and finish in March 2015. Investigation work into the build started in January this year.

Basingstoke MP Maria Miller said the investment means the town has been put on the map.

By **Katriona Ormiston**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

She said: "For more than a decade, Basingstoke's success was taken for granted. We did not get the level of investment in roads and other local services needed, despite being required to have one of the highest house building targets in the whole of England under Labour.

"This government understands that if Britain is to succeed, then it's towns like Basingstoke that will make it happen if they get the investment needed.

"By taking difficult decisions to control spending elsewhere, the Government has been able to invest in roads and other local services - creating jobs

and making it easier for businesses to move goods around the country.

"Each job created by a business in Basingstoke means another family has the security and peace of mind that comes from a regular pay packet."

Traffic at the M3 Junction 6 backs up regularly and causes queues on the exit slip-roads.

The problem is linked to the Black Dam roundabout on the A339, about 350m north of the junction, which cannot cope with the level of traffic.

The building work will turn the roundabout into a traffic-lighted junction with a dual four-lane carriageway through the middle of the Black Dam roundabout.

The project was outlined during the Chancellor's Autumn statement in November 2011.



Grants to help get Basingstoke back in business



BASINGSTOKE businesses hit by flooding will soon be able to apply for a share of up to £65,000 to get back on their feet.

The money has been given to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council by the government to help companies recover from floods.

It is for small and medium-sized businesses who suffered damage, building problems or loss in trade to claim up to £5,000.

The money is aimed at helping with clean-up costs or rent for temporary accommodation to continue trading.

Chief executive Tony Curtis said: "The recent flooding in the borough caused many problems for our residents but it also made doing business difficult for some of our small companies.

"This might include some of the shops and restaurants in Buckskin and small companies and traders in our villages that were flooded. Many of them have been coping with the impacts on their own."

For details, go to www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/floodhelp.

News Bites

Dinosaur visit for Festival Place

VELMA the velociraptor is set to be let loose in Festival Place at the weekend, to help promote a 'Rise of the Dinosaurs' show at Marwell Zoo during May.

The dinosaur will be rampaging through the shopping centre at 11.30am, 12.30pm and 2pm, with a chance for pictures with the prehistoric beast.

Kirstie Mathieson, project leader at Marwell Zoo, said: "Velma has travelled from the zoo and is stalking the shopping centre for food and friends!"

Go backstage of Spielberg epic

A HISTORIAN who advised Steven Spielberg on the first world war during the filming of War Horse will be at Basingstoke Discovery Centre in July.

Andy Robertshaw gave the director advice on historical accuracy while the hit film was being shot.

Mr Robertshaw will explain the making of War Horse through behind-the-scenes stories, military insight and on-set photographs on July 3 at the Festival Way centre.

The talk is part of a series of events marking 100 years since the start of the First World War this year.

Human chain

MORE than 2,000 people are being called to form a human chain around Basingstoke town centre.

Residents are being asked to join in the free event on June 21 at 4pm to show how much they like the town.

The chain of people, starting in Festival Square and finishing in Festival place, is part of this year's Basingstoke Festival.

More than 2,000 people are needed.

It will start with a signal from the top of Festival Place car park.

The human chain will be followed by a picnic and live music in Eastrop Park.

To register to join in, go to destinationbasingstoke.co.uk.

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Franklin Avenue
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Emma 077950 65042

Oakridge Village
Oakridge Hall for All
Forsythia Walk
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Liz 07771 346702

TUESDAY
Hook
Elizabeth Hall
Raven Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Jo 07515 719190

Winkiebury
Fort Hill Community School
Kenilworth Road
7.30pm
Tel: Tina 07810 147400

South Ham
Westside Community Centre
Paddock Road
7.30pm
Tel: Kirsty 07843 276953

Overton
St Luke's Hall, Winchester Street
7.30pm
Tel: Lynn 07885 765341

Bramley
Bramley Village hall, The Street
7.30pm
Tel: Kate 07853 989168

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Brighton Hill
Viabes Craft Ctr, The Barn
The Harrow Way
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Tadley
Ambrose Allen Centre,
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Popley
Melrose Hall, Abbey Road
9.30am
Tel: Hazel 07796 158098
"Kids Corner - Children Welcome"

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THURSDAY
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New base for town's fire fighters revealed

• From front page

Basingstoke and Deane group manager Brian Rudman said: "The fire service sits there in the background and no-one thinks about it - until they need that 999 call."

"It is about making Hampshire safer - we need to be able to respond in the best way possible to any emergency."

"You only have to look at the flooding earlier this year to see how important the fire service is."

By **Katriona Ormiston**

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The building has got to a stage that it is not fit for our requirements - it is an old building with some structural problems.

"It will bring the fire station into the 21st Century."

"There have been questions about why we are spending this money, but it has got to the stage

that we are throwing money away trying to keep the current building up and running."

The new building is also set to include new community rooms to teach children and residents about their work.

A lift will also be installed at the station for disabled access.

The fire station has four shifts, each with 19 whole time firefighters. Another 20 part-time retained firefighters are also based at the station.

Firefighters at Basingstoke Fire Station were called out 800 times last year.

The new station will take about 16 months to build and will continue to run as normal throughout the project.

Basingstoke's fire fighters and fire engines will run from a temporary base on the same West Ham Close site and another smaller base - using the office block and breathing apparatus training centre to house crews.

A planning application for the build is due to be submitted within the next few months.

If permission is granted, building work is due to start in July next year and finished by the end of 2016.

The plans had been delayed some months because of changes in the design.

The architects behind the designs revealed tonight are from Hampshire County Council.

News Bites

TV show search

CHANNEL 4 are looking for talented chefs and dinner party hosts across Basingstoke for their next Come Dine With Me TV show.

The popular daytime series sees four strangers take turns to host the best dinner party possible for each other.

It is to be filmed over five days - from June 2 to June 6 - and the best-scoring host wins £1,000.

To take part, email cdwm@itv.com or call 0871 244 4142.

M3 slip road shut

REPAIR work to the carriageway will shut a slip road onto the M3 at junction 6 with Basingstoke overnight until Monday.

The northbound entry slip road will be closed between 10pm and 5am on weekdays.

Drivers will be diverted via junction 7.

Sale for church

A CHARITY sale on Saturday will raise money for a Basingstoke church.

The sale from 1pm until 3.30pm will raise funds for St Andrew's Methodist Church in Western Way and the church-based boys brigade.

Stalls will be set up both inside and outside the church.

It was built 18 months ago and served as a base for victims during the flooding.

More than 80 homes in the Bucksden area of the town had to be evacuated after flooding hit the town in January and February.

Easter surprise for residents at town care home



MORE than 50 Easter eggs were handed out to residents at a Basingstoke care home.

The Easter treats were collected by Basingstoke-based recruitment agency Select Appointments.

They dropped them off for residents at Basingfield Court Residential Care Home in Huish Lane, Old Basing, last Thursday.

The home gives residential and dementia care for the elderly.

Managing director

of Select Appointments, Barbara Law, said: "We wanted to raise awareness of this lovely local care home and give the residents a treat - because after all, it doesn't matter what age you are, everyone loves chocolate."

Rachel Barry, the care home's manager, added: "Our residents really look forward to Easter - they especially love to reminisce about Easters gone by when they grew up or with their families."

"The donation is so appreciated."

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Community group gets £2,500 grant from Fund

A BASINGSTOKE community group has received £2,500 in funding, as one of 16 across the county that were awarded grants from the Grassroots Families in Crisis Funds.

More than £35,000 in grants were awarded in April to groups, given out by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF).

Home-Start North West Hampshire was one of seven similar charities in the area to receive funding, which provide targeted support for families in crisis.

This includes offering one-to-one home visiting services and volunteer development to assist vulnerable families in need of positive parenting role models.

Toni Shaw, CEO of HIWCF, said: "It has been a busy start to the year for the foundation, with applications exceeding £800,000 for this first round."

"As shrinking budgets continue to bite, more families than ever find themselves struggling financially and are dependent on the help and advice of non-profit organisations."

"Our Families in Crisis Fund aims to support the vital work these groups do in our communities."

Other groups that received grants in the area in recent months include the Mustard Seed Autism Trust, Rushmoor Healthy Living and Bridges Support Project.

Help on offer to stalking victims

By **Katriona Ormiston**

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

POLICE are reminding victims harassed by stalkers that help is at hand on National Stalking Awareness Day today.

Officers from Hampshire Constabulary are trying to raise the profile of the crime and the support the Hampshire Stalking Clinic offers.

The clinic was set up by Detective Chief Inspector Linda Dawson, whose work to help victims of stalking and harassment was recognised with an MBE earlier this year.

DCI Dawson said: "Stalking often goes unreported with victims suffering in silence and feeling that their fears and concerns won't be taken seriously."

"The Clinic has been set up to assist police, and probation officers fully understand the stalking profile of the suspect and in so doing ensure that a bespoke safeguarding plan is put in place to protect the victim."

The clinic, based at Aurora New Dawn in Havant, covers Basingstoke and protects vulnerable victims.

A full-time independent stalking supporter has also been appointed, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioners.



Hampshire police are marking National Stalking Awareness Day today

Hampshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Simon Hayes, said: "The invasion into someone's privacy by another through stalking or harassment can have a devastating lasting effect on victims in all aspects of their lives. We must provide the right level of protection and support for victims across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight."

The clinic brings together professionals from the probation

service, police, mental health agencies and victim support services to look at all available options and fully assess the risks involved.

Offenders are often obsessed with the victim so normal police prevention methods can prove ineffective.

They will often be arrested, convicted and sentenced only to carry on their behaviour on release.

Detective Inspector Tina Lowe said: "The experience of being stalked can destroy the lives of victims. It is vitally important that we identify stalking cases at the earliest opportunity, assess the risk to victims to put robust safeguarding in place and use the legislation to bring offenders to justice."

The theme of this year's National Stalking Day is "Working Without Fear".

New comedy show coming to the town

SURREY-BASED company Unum is staging its very first Charity Comedy Roadshow in Basingstoke next Wednesday, to raise money for Sebastian's Action Trust.

Professional comedians Matthew Bayliss, Pierre Novellie, Iszi Lawrence and Brian Higgins will each perform at Audley's Wood Hotel, on Alton Road.

The evening has been organised by Kieran Drinkwater, who works at Unum's Basing View office.

He said: "This will be our first big charity event of 2014 and there's no better way than to start with something the company has never done before."

"We've some real talent performing. Pierre Novellie is considered the next big thing in comedy and is the current holder of the Amused Moose Laugh-Off Award."

"Ultimately, of course, we are doing this for our regional charity."

"Sebastian's Action Trust offers respite holidays for sick children, and is the only purpose-built facility of its kind in the UK, so it's an incredibly good cause."

Tickets cost £10 each, and attendance is limited to 200 people. For more information or to book tickets, email basingstokecsr@unum.co.uk or call Kieran on 01256 301072.

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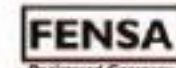
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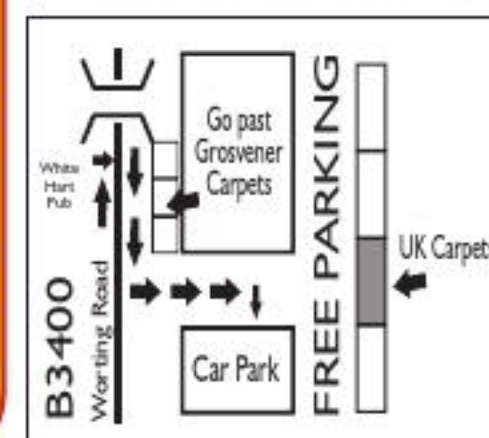


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Ofsted rate key service as good

INSPECTORS found services for vulnerable children by Hampshire County Council are of a good standard.

The report, which was published on Tuesday, rated the children's services as good overall and outstanding in places.

The surprise four-week examination by a team of ten inspectors from February 18 until March 12 reviewed more than 200 cases.

The 33-page report states: "Children and young people receive good support when they need it."

"Overall, services are making a demonstrable difference in reducing risks and improving the life chances of some of the most vulnerable children in Hampshire."

It added that children's futures are given the highest priority, and that they are well supported when they leave care.

The council - which covers vulnerable children in Basingstoke - is currently working with around 6,500 children and their

By **Katriona Ormiston**

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

families.

The number of child protection plans at the council has increased by 50 per cent over the last two and a half years.

The council's services for children in need of help and protection, children in care, and care leavers were rated good.

The adoption service, and leadership and governance across all children's services were rated outstanding.

Councillor Keith Mans, Executive Lead Member for Children's Services at Hampshire County Council, said: "This was a particularly rigorous inspection process."

"While we were confident that our children's services are good, Ofsted's third party impartial judgement is a welcome endorsement, affirming that the children under our watch and in our care are safe

and well looked after.

"We are especially pleased with the two outstanding judgements."

He continued: "The inspectors agreed that we have the right children in care."

"This means we are assessing children correctly and only placing children in care when

this is absolutely necessary and right to do so."

"This is one of the toughest jobs in the public sector and I am proud it is done to such a high standard in Hampshire."

Inspectors also assessed the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Board at the same time and rated it good.

Extra gym classes

HART District Council has introduced additional exercise classes for its 'Steady and Strong' programme, after they proved to be popular.

The programme was first introduced by Hampshire County Council and the Southern Health NHS Foundation Trusts, and was designed to improve core strength, balance, confidence and coordination for older people.

And the classes, which run at Hart and Frogmore leisure centres, were so well attended that more have been set up.

Sam Knowles, leisure development officer for Hart, said: "We were keen to add these classes to our group exercise timetable as we wanted to offer more opportunities."

Sharon Hatherley, who runs the sessions, said: "I just love teaching the class and seeing everyone improve, becoming more confident and happier."

"I've taught many different group exercise classes over the years, and this one is definitely the most rewarding. I've worked with stroke victims, people with balance issues and people who have had falls, and this class really can make a huge difference to peoples' lives."

Classes run at Hart Leisure Centre on Wednesdays from 12.45pm to 2.45pm, and at Frogmore Leisure Centre every Thursday from 1.30pm to 2.30pm. For more details, contact the centres on 01252 629974 or 01252 873454 respectively.

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Best foot forward for event



ALTON'S Walking Festival is returning for a second year next month, following the success of the inaugural event in 2013.

It is set to take place over the weekend of May 10 and 11, and will feature two ghost walks, as well as a number of traditional routes that can take from between 30 minutes and eight hours to complete.

The festival is being organised by Alton Town Council, who have devised the programme with various clubs, societies and individuals from the local area.

Cllr Kevin Stevens, chairman of the council's parish paths working party, said: "We are all looking forward to our second festival."

"This year we are hoping that

the event will attract enthusiastic walkers from further afield to learn a little bit more about Alton and its various offerings.

"The walks will combine breathtaking views together with learning more about the town, its conservation initiatives as well as its history."

During the festival, the Alton Chamber of Commerce are also running a challenge.

They are inviting people to explore the town centre and hunt for the walking boots displayed in shop windows.

Once they have solved the missing word, they can enter a competition, with a prize on offer for the winner.

For more information or to book a walk go to www.alton.gov.uk.

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Mammals in the county

THE results of Hampshire's wildlife survey have been announced, with the grey squirrel being revealed as the most frequently spotted mammal in the county.

Almost half of residents see the squirrels in their gardens on a monthly basis, according to information gathered by the RSPB.

For the first time in the history of the organisation's Big Garden Birdwatch, participants were asked to document all types of wildlife visiting their gardens,

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

as well as birds.

While grey squirrels are thriving in the area, the number of hedgehogs seen regularly has decreased, falling from 67 to 40 per cent.

Around 18 per cent of residents saw roe deer in Hampshire, compared to just eight per cent spotting a muntjac.

But it was toads which have

declined the most, with just seven per cent of people in Hampshire having seen one regularly, in comparison to the national average of 28 per cent.

Daniel Hayhow, RSPB conservation scientist, said: "This massive survey shows how important our gardens are for the amazing variety of wildlife living there."

"This is the start of something big and something very important, as in a few years' time we'll be able to compare how the distribution of garden wildlife may have changed."

"Hopefully, the fact that more people are helping to give nature a home in their gardens and outside spaces will mean we see improvements rather than declines."

Marina Pacheco, chief executive of the Mammal Society, said: "Those taking part in this year's Big Garden Birdwatch have captured one of the largest snapshots ever recorded for some of our most endearing and threatened mammals."

"It's fantastic to know that gardens can be a vital refuge for rapidly-declining species like the hedgehog."

"As well as taking part in an enjoyable survey, participants have greatly increased our understanding of the distribution and relative abundance of UK mammals."

• The survey has revealed that hedgehogs are declining in Hampshire (Picture by Eleanor Bental)



Basingstoke goes back to the ice age at Milestones

MILESTONES Museum's Lost World Zoo exhibition came to an end on Monday, culminating in the completion of a giant Lego mammoth outside the building.

The 2.5m high mammoth has been created during the course of the exhibition, and is accompanied by the already assembled sabre-toothed tiger, dodo birds and Neanderthal man.

It has taken six weeks to build, and contains approximately 250,000 thousand bricks.

For more information about the museum, including upcoming displays, go to www.milestones-museum.com or phone 01256 477766.

• The Lego mammoth at Milestones Museum was completed last week

News Bites

Fuel theft caution

POLICE are urging lorry drivers to be more vigilant against fuel thefts, after 200 litres of diesel was removed from a heavy goods vehicle near Tot Hill Services earlier this month.

The HGV was parked in a lay-by on the A34 overnight on April 9/10, when the fuel was taken while the driver slept.

Sellers are fined

THREE men have been fined after police stopped them from doorstep selling in Sherfield on Loddon and Up Nately without a pedlars certificate.

David Speck, 19, and Ashley Chadburn, 21, were both fined £305, while Gary Stocker, 24, was fined £85 after they were caught selling car cleaning products on doorsteps last month.

PC Andrew Reid said: "This is an excellent result, and hope the message will get home to others that illegal door to door salesmen will be subject to enforcement action."

Have you won?

ST MICHAEL'S Hospice has announced the winners of its lottery draw from April 18.

First prize of £1,000 goes to ticket 71375 of Basingstoke, while ticket 66986 of Whitechurch claims second prize of £100. Third prize of £50 goes to Hook ticket 14508, and Tadley ticket 38879 gets fourth prize of £20.

Sixteen prizes of £5 go to tickets 02781, 20919, 30215, 34306, 34322, 35979, 36938, 40641, 46603, 58466, 69406, 71545, 73328, 74471, 81798 and 82490.

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Fair hopes to pay for Hook allotment land

HOOK'S first Spring Fair on Sunday is hoped to raise cash to pay for the town's allotment land.

A children's plant hunt, tombola, and 30 stalls - selling produce including homemade fruit and veg - will be running from 2pm until 5pm in Elizabeth Hall in Raven Road.

Money raised will go to Hook Allotment Association.

Hook Cross allotments were set up in March 2011 with £50,000 borrowed by the association from an anonymous donor.

The cash paid for the 5.38 acres of land - enough for 150 plots for families to grow their own fruit and veg.

Sue Hinton and husband David Sanderson, from Hook's town centre, grows potatoes, tomatoes, runner beans, asparagus, and onions in their Hook Cross allotment.

Ms Hinton - who is also a member of the association's fundraising committee - said: "We are excited, we are really looking forward to it."



By **Katriona Ormiston**

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

"If it goes well we might have another one later in the year."

"We have been so surprised with how many people have wanted to support us - the stalls have been booked up for a month."

Bags, scarves, bird boxes, glass ornaments, paintings, jewellery, and food will be among the offerings by stallholders.

Over the last three years Hook Allotment Association raised the money to buy in full four acres of the land.

But it needs to raise another £10,000 to buy the remaining 1.38 acres.

They hope to raise it over the course of the next year - including some of the funds raised through the Spring Fair.

The association says by raising the funds they hope to protect the land from developments.

Aside from the schools it is the largest community organisation in the village.

To find out about applying for an allotment, go to www.hookallotments.com.

• **David Sanderson working at the Hook Cross allotments** (Picture by Kayla Muir)



Pupils dive in to marine lessons

CHILDREN at Lord Wandsworth College near Hook became undersea explorers during the Easter holidays, in sessions organised by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

The sessions were set up to raise awareness with seven to 11-year-olds about local marine wildlife, and took place in the college's swimming pool.

Children were taught to snor-

kel in the pool, which was filled with artificial props of marine plants and animals including jellyfish, kelp and starfish as part of an underwater safari.

This was followed up with sea-themes games, including a litter pick relay race to clear plastic bottles from the pool.

Project officer Polly White said: "It is challenging to show children what marine wildlife lives hidden in our seas."

"But Undersea Explorers is a fun way to do just that and get children learning about the sea."

Further sessions will be held by the Trust at the college, which are so far scheduled for May 27 and August 1.

For more information about the scheme, email polly.white@hiwwt.org.uk, phone 01489 774426 or go to www.making-wavesproject.org.uk.

Hotel gardens set to open to help charities

TYLNEY Hall Hotel is set to open up its gardens to the public on Sunday, as part of the National Garden Scheme's efforts to raise money for charity.

The hotel and gardens, near Hook, will open its grounds to the public between 10am and 4pm, with guests being given the opportunity to explore the site's 66 acres.

So far, the National Garden Scheme has raised more than £42million for various charities since its foundation in 1927, including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care and The Queen's Nursing Institute.

General manager Mark Robinson said: "Tylney Hall is known across the county for having the most exceptionally kept gardens."

"Open days like these are the perfect opportunity for members of the public to take a look around, while raising money for a fantastic cause."

Entry to the gardens will cost £4 for adults, while children can visit for free.

A further two open days are scheduled for June 8 and October 5. For more information, go to www.tylneyhall.co.uk.

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Wave goodbye to waste

Want to save money, reduce waste and do your bit for the environment? Find out why compost has all the answers

REDUCING waste, saving money and doing your bit for the environment are all tempting ideas. But sometimes green schemes like wind turbines and solar panels sound a little daunting.

If you'd like to be a bit 'greener' but don't know where to start, there's an easy answer: composting.

Creating what's known as "black gold" for the garden is the perfect way to reduce waste while turning your kitchen scraps and garden trimmings into a terrific soil enricher.

By Lucy Corry

news@basinstokeobserver.co.uk

Compost tends to be made up of green and brown materials. The green waste comprises of things like kitchen scraps, leaves and used coffee grounds, and the brown tends to be things which takes longer to decompose, such as dried leaves and shredded newspapers.

Green compost is moist and full of nitrogen and, ideally, your bin should have a nice layered mix of the two kinds, to encourage a healthy fertiliser to develop.

So forget buying those expensive bags of compost from the garden centre, and start turning your kitchen leftovers and lawn cuttings into a fantastic soil enhancer, while helping to reduce the amount of rubbish headed for landfill.

Getting started

All you need to start your composting career is a lidded container or makeshift frame. It should ideally be at least 1 metre (3ft) square, otherwise it may be too small to generate enough heat to rot down the mix.

Experts suggest the container should also be easily accessible, have no gaps in the sides and be insulated with cardboard or straw. And, if you can put it in semi-shaded position, or directly on the soil, so much the better.

What can I put in?

Basically anything which has at some point lived will compost - but some items are best avoided. Don't attempt to put meat, cooked food, dairy products, cat litter or faeces in there, as these can attract unwanted visitors.

Go for 'green waste' such as fruit and vegetable waste, lawn clippings, egg shells, stale bread, tea bags and leaves, coffee grounds, young weeds; and 'brown' waste which is carbon-rich and slow to rot, such as torn up newspaper, junk mail, cardboard and newspaper.

How does it work?

Once in your compost bin, the dry, woody brown materials and your soft green waste will work together. The woody debris will allow air to circulate through the heap, while the soft waste will provide nitrogen, other plant foods and moisture.

Once your container is full, don't let it dry out or become too wet. A good test is to squeeze a handful and see how much moisture comes out - it should only be a few droplets.

How to add your waste?

To ensure success, you should think about the content of compost like a recipe, making sure that your basic mixture is equally balanced with a mixture of green and brown waste.

Green waste tends to break

down more quickly than brown waste - so use it to activate the composting process. But, remember, you also need that bulky brown waste, which decays more slowly, to add body to the compost.

Experts recommend taking out tough weeds, diseased plants and woody prunings as they can take too long to decompose, and breaking up all bulky stuff before it goes in.

They also suggest alternating your brown and green materials in different layers, to encourage both to break down and rot.

If you are making compost for the first time, turn the new heap after about a week to allow the cooler outer material to enter into the hotter centre, then turn it again two weeks later, after which you should leave it for around six months.

How long will it take?

If you are filling the heap gradually, the material at the bottom of the pile should almost be ready for use by the time the container is filled.

In less than a year, you'll have soft, crumbly fruitcake-like compost to spread as a mulch or add to your soil to improve its fertility. You'll also have the warm fuzzy feeling that comes with doing a good deed - and getting something for nothing.

• Images: PA Photo/ Thinkstockphotos



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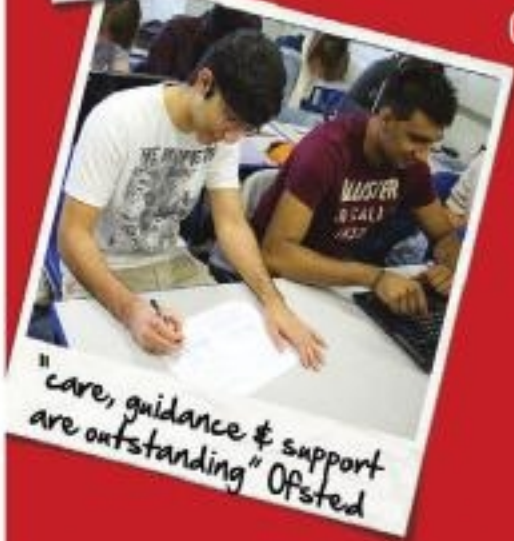
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The walk takes participants through the Earl of Portsmouth Estate on a choice of five, eight or 12 mile route through the North Hampshire countryside.

Walkers must start their chosen route by 10am from Home Farm, in Farleigh Wallop. For more information, call 01256 848848 or email events@stmichaelsospice.org.uk.

Rainbow Senses coming to town

PROTEUS Creation Space is host to Rainbow Senses tomorrow evening, which asks audiences to awaken their senses through sound, movement, visuals and chocolate.

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Tickets cost £20, and more details can be found at www.proteustheatre.com.

A tribute to the King



FORMER world champion Elvis tribute act Lee Memphis King returns to Basingstoke next month, with an all new show focusing on the entirety of the legendary singer's career.

The two-hour show on May 10 at The Anvil is split into two halves, with the first an authentic recreation of Elvis's 1968 comeback special, before progressing to a rousing performance of his years in Vegas.

In 2005, Lee was officially declared the best Elvis Tribute Artist in the world at the prestigious Collingwood Elvis Festival in Canada, fighting off competition from over 100 other Elvis impersonators.

Lee said: "In the final, there's around 6,500 people watching, and four judges from fan clubs who are looking for all sorts, from the mannerisms, the voice, the look, everything you can imagine. And I won it!"

"I don't know if it was a coincidence or not but shortly after, I was asked to do a theatre tour, and I've been on tour since."

Lee's love of Elvis's music began as a child, when he saw the King's film 'Roustabout'.

He soon started trying to imitate the iconic voice, which grew into attempting to imitate the excitement and passion of an Elvis performance.

"I was an instant fan from five-years-

By **Adam Flinn**

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk



old," Lee continued. "But I never knew how to actually achieve [becoming a tribute act] as I went through life."

"So thank God the Internet came along! I sent some samples off, and someone said they'd give me a go."

Asked if he had a favourite Elvis song he liked to perform, Lee said: "There's one called 'Let It Be Me', it's one we include in the show and one of my favourites."

Tickets for the show cost £24, and can be booked at www.anvilarts.org.uk.

• **Lee Memphis King**

College show

SECOND year music students at Queen Mary's College stage their final course performances this evening, in An Audience With.

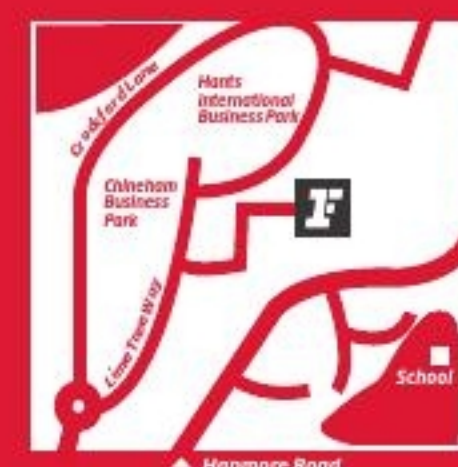
They will be showcasing their knowledge of live performance with their own material, which they have been working on during their time at the college.

It starts at 7.30pm. Go to www.centralstudio.co.uk for more details.

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May

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Saturday 17th May

Weymouth

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Saturday 31st May

The Thames Traveller £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

June

Tuesday 3rd June

Brighton £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 5th June

Bournemouth £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Sunday 15th June

Swansea and the 21st Festival of Transport on Father's Day

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £22.50 - Child £15.00

Saturday 28th June

Sanders Garden World & Burnham-on-Sea

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

July

Saturday 12th July

Aylesbury and The Vale, The Dunstable Downs and The Great Train Robbery £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Sunday 27th July

Bognor or Butlins £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 29th July

Cutty Sark and Greenwich Park
£ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 31st July

Oxford or Blenheim Palace £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

August

Saturday 2nd August

The Kentish Klipper - Sevenoaks and Royal Tunbridge Wells

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Tuesday 5th August

Gosport Market & Lee-on-the-Solent

£ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 7th August

Mystery Seaside Excursion £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 12th August

Stewarts Garden Centre and Christchurch

£ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 14th August

Hampton Court Palace or Kingston-upon-Thames £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 16th August

Eastbourne including Air Show

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Tuesday 19th August

Portsmouth World War One Commemorative

Event or Southsea £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 21st August

Corfe Castle and Swanage £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Wednesday 27th August

Ringwood Market and Romsey £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Sunday 31st August

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Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50 September

Saturday 13th September

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Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £22.50 - Child £15.00

Saturday 27th September

Wimborne Market and Poole Quay

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Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

October

Saturday 11th October

Warwick Castle and Stratford-upon-Avon

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £15.00

Saturday 25th October

Lymington and New Forest Drive

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Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 28th October

Mystery Tour £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 30th October

Notcutts Garden Centre and Guildford

£ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

November

Saturday 8th November

Westfield Christmas Shopping £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 22nd November

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Saturday 29th November

Bath Christmas Market

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

December

Saturday 6th December

Brugge Christmas Market

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Route 'X' - £42.50 per person - (no child reduction)

Sunday 14th December

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Route 'B' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

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Tel: 0118 981 3238

Shopmobility, Church Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7QQ
(Cash or Cheques only)
Tel: 01256 476066

Matt's back

COMEDIAN and co-host of The Xtra Factor Matt Richardson brings his debut stand-up show 'Hometown Hero' to the Bordon Phoenix on Saturday.

Matt is rapidly establishing himself on the comedy circuit, and has also made appearances on Never Mind the Buzzcocks, Celebrity Juice and Sweat the Small Stuff.

Indian music

INDIAN music maestros Ustad Zakir Hussain and Shri Suresh Wadkar perform at The Haymarket on Sunday, making their first ever appearance together in Basingstoke.

Ustad is known worldwide as an acclaimed percussionist, while Shri's soulful voice has been entertaining music lovers for many years.

Puppetry show

THE story of Peter and the Wolf is performed through shadow puppetry in a children's production coming to Central Studio on Saturday morning.

Sergei Prokofiev's much-loved music is integrated into the visual storytelling and simple scenery, created using special lighting effects.

It costs £6 for adults and £5 for children, and starts at 11am. Go to www.centralstudio.co.uk to book.

BAOS Limelight ready for moment of Fame

By Jaqui Ball

THE search for Fame involves more than performing on stage as the young people of BAOS Limelight have been finding out.

With just a few days to go until they take to the stage, the Limelighters have been busy sourcing costumes, painting

scenery and making props for their latest production, Fame Jr.

Among the props they have fash-

ioned out of cardboard, felt and wool are 14 bright blue mortar boards for the final graduation scene, when the students of the Fame Performing Arts School celebrate their success after four hard-working, frustrating but ultimately exhilarating years.

One of the Limelighters who won't be donning a mortar board for the final scene is sixteen year old Jack Baldwin.

Jack plays Tyrone, who can dance like nobody else but finds the academic side of college life a trial.

He said: "Playing Tyrone is a challenge for me because it's mainly a dancing role but I've been lucky to have my friend Zoe Blackall to choreograph the ballet scenes for me."

"It's also been good to explore how a character can develop and change over the course of the show."

The Limelighters will be presenting Fame Jr. at the Everest Community Academy on Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27.

The Saturday performances start at 3.30pm and 7pm, while the Sunday

matinee performance starts at 2pm.

The toe-tapping music and clever lyrics will bring memories of the Eighties flooding back – and there's a sing-along at the end of the Saturday night performance to release your inner performer.

The Limelight youngsters, all aged between 13 and 16, have put in hours of work learning challenging dance routines and developing their characters under the watchful eyes of Director Adam Bayjou and choreographer Ashleigh Bayjou.

Both Adam and Ashleigh are professional performers in their own right, so they have lots of experience and expertise to share with the Limelighters.

Tickets priced at £10 for adults and £7.50 for children, are available from www.baoslimelight.ticketsource.co.uk, or telephone 01256 763127.

For more information about special promotions and group bookings, contact baoslimelight@yahoo.co.uk.

• **Limelighters busy preparing for their upcoming show**



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What's on in HAMPSHIRE

LISTINGS

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for the full guide of what to see and do in Hampshire



Thursday 8 May 2014 8pm
The Forge
MAMANE BARKA
The Lone Master of the Biram

25 Apr 2014, 7:45pm

The Anvil

BASEL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The concert gives a rare chance to hear a live performance of John Adam's spectacular Harmonielehre. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

28 Apr 2014, 2pm - 4pm

Kingsclere Village Hall

DRAWING AND PAINTING CLASSES

A fun weekly class with one-to-one tuition from practicing artist and tutor Bethany Milam. Explore different skills and techniques working at your own pace. Tea / Coffee included. 01635 299371 or email education@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

30 Apr 2014, 8pm

The Anvil

FIFTY SHADES OF BEIGE

This jam-packed spanking new show includes learning the art of 'Grumpy Grooming', the joy of large pants, a free nagging master class (how to get your own way without him even noticing), beards for women, which style will suit you? Complimentary Anger Management workshop, middle-aged drinking: the rules, navigating the smorgasbord of worry, voluntary euthanasia vs. retirement, how to customise an unwanted pole dancing kit and a mercifully brief Zumba demonstration. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

1 May 2014 - 3 May 2014,

The Haymarket

THE DEVIL AT MIDNIGHT

Spine-tingling psychological thriller. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

1 May 2014, 6:30pm

The Tea Bar, Basingstoke

LOCAL FOOD ROOTS EVENT

Film show and discussion followed by presentations from local food projects and a discussion about the local food networks in Basingstoke and north Hampshire tombrenan@googlemail.com

2 May 2014, 7:45pm

The Forge

PHILLIP HENRY AND HANNAH MARTIN

Phillip and Hannah are two musicians with a fast growing following; Phillip one of the UK's top slide guitarists and harmonica players; Hannah a singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist writing mainly on fiddle, viola and banjo. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

2 May 2014, 7:30pm

Central Studio, Queen Mary's College

ACOUSTIC OPEN MIC NIGHT

Come along to play or just come to hear some of the most talented musicians in Basingstoke. Everybody welcome, from professionals to first time performers. FREE www.centralstudio.co.uk

3 May 2014, 7:30pm - 11:45pm

Crown Lane, Old Basing

BAND NIGHT

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4 May 2014, 11am - 11:30pm

Camrose Social Club, Western Way

Basingstoke RG22 6EZ

STOKIE-FEST

All day music event featuring Hats off to Led Zeppelin along with a fantastic and varied line up throughout the day. There will also be family fun outside food and drink stalls, kids' entertainment and prizes to be won throughout the day. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Stokie-Fest/365361226933789>

7 May 2014 - 10 May 2014,

The Haymarket

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER

Charles Marlow, a well-bred young man from London, is beset with a stutter and a quiver when in the presence of elegant and educated young women. When his father sets him up with his old friend's eligible daughter, he is totally tongue tied - but Miss Hardcastle is charmed by her gibbering suitor and employs an unexpected tactic to put him at his ease. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

8 May 2014, 8pm

The Forge

MAMANE BARKA

THE LONE

MASTER OF THE

BIRAM

A night in the company of Mamane Barka is a chance not just to experience a beautiful, forgotten music, but to hear the fascinating story of one man's mission to save a

sacred harp and the rich musical traditions of the Boudouma nomads from extinction. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

8 May 2014, 7:45pm

The Anvil

CARNABY STREET - THE

CONCERT

Featuring a six-piece band, led by an array of fantastic singers, the show is set against the backdrop of London's West End in the sixties - its iconic clubs, trendy fashions and eccentric characters; at a time full of hope and freedom; when the world was changing and anything seemed possible. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

10 May 2014 - 17 May 2014, 7pm - 10pm

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10 May 2014, 1:30pm - 4pm

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(B3350), Earley Reading

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Central Studio, Queen Mary's

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£6 full | £5 children This is an old story that takes place in a forgotten tattered library. The caretaker arrives to check the place over. He talks to the audience about his love of books. www.centralstudio.co.uk

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Central Studio, Queen Mary's College

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Premier Dining	£209	£179	Banbury	07:00	21:30



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Standard Class	£79	£39	Banbury	07:00	22:50
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French car manufacturer and American make-up company team up for new edition Special Citroën on the roads

UNVEILED last month, the new editions of Citroën DS3 have hit the county's roads.

The French car manufacturer teamed up with American cosmetic company Benefit for an unlikely partnership to launch special editions of the car.

Two models of the Citroën have been released with a third to be launched later in the Summer.

The first Citroën DSign was aimed to take inspiration from the make-up company's red lip and cheek gloss, called Benetint.

It is powered by an VTi 82 engine with a manual gearbox and is based on the DSign specification.

The body is finished in ruby red metallic paint with a white roof and door mirrors, dark tinted rear windows, chrome detailing and 17" white alloy wheels.

The styling inside includes a white dashboard, air vent surrounds and gear stick cap; black velour carpet mats with red piping and red Benefit logo, and aluminium pedals. It includes day-time running LED lights, air conditioning

REVIEW: Citroën DS3

By **Philip Shoulder**

@writeonmotoring

and a connecting box with Bluetooth and USB connectivity. The car aims for luxury feel with Alcantara trim on the sports seats.

Benefit's DS3 DStyle is said to be styled on the make-up company's mascara. It has a sporty VTi 120 manual and is based on the DStyle Plus trim.

The outside is a metallic grey, with an orange roof, door mirrors and wheel centre caps with black 17" alloy wheels and dark tinted rear windows.

Inside, the car has a gloss black dashboard, air vent surrounds and gear stick cap; bespoke black velour carpet mats with orange piping and orange Benefit logo, and aluminium pedals. It also has Alcantara trim on the sports seats.

DS3 DSign and DStyle by Benefit are available from £14,795 and £16,795 respectively. Added Benefit products and a make up bag are designed to fit in the glove box.



• Special editions of the Citroën DS3 have gone on sale in the UK



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*£1000 deposit contribution is available to new Renault Finance customers when taking Renault Finance on a new Renault Clio or Captur (excluding Clio Expression+ and Renaultsport). Offers cannot be used with other schemes or finance offers and are available on specified new vehicles when ordered by 30 June 2014. Clio shown has optional metallic paint, available at an additional £295. Captur shown has optional i.e. metallic paint at £495 and painted roof at £300.

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Good points haul for Collard and Foster

ROB Collard had a mixed day in the British Touring Car Championship last Sunday, recording two strong points finishes as well as spinning out of a potential podium place at Donington Park.

Starting 13th in race one, Collard steadily made his way up the order to finish fourth, just under eight seconds behind race-winner Jason Plato.

This meant he would start fourth in race two, and having initially overtaken Andrew Jordan to move into third, he spun off track on lap four and into retirement.

Collard started 28th for the final race of the day, and made up 21 places to come home seventh and end the day on a high.

"We can definitely take some positives away from the weekend as I think I've shown good pace in both the wet and the dry," said Collard.

"I've scored well this weekend despite race two, but it is a case of what might have been in a way as a podium finish still eludes me this season.

"I should have had one at Brands Hatch and I should have had one here, but overall it's been good to show our pace and a top-three finish isn't far away."

Meanwhile, Collard's team-mate Nick Foster endured a more difficult weekend, with results of 18th and 15th in the

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

first two races only earning him one point for his efforts.

But the final race of the day was much more successful, as he

battled with Collard for much of the race to finish just behind his team-mate in eighth position.

Foster said: "The opening two races were hard work in the conditions and if I'm being honest with myself, I think I need to be a bit more assertive in the wet."

"In the final race, I probably

had my worst start in ages but the race pace was really strong, and I was able to get myself into the kind of position I want to be in.

"If I'd managed to get a decent start then I could have been even higher up, but it was nice to end on a high as to go from 15th to

eighth in this competition is a good result."

Collard is currently seventh in the BTCC standings with 56 points, while Foster is 12th with 25.

The next event takes place at the Hampshire track of Thruxton on May 4.



• Rob Collard leads Nick Foster at last Sunday's meeting at Donington Park (Picture courtesy of btcc.net)

Wins for Wintney and Whitchurch, but Calleva can only draw

THERE was mixed success for Hartley Wintney over Easter, as a 4-2 defeat at home to Cove last Saturday was followed up by a 5-1 thrashing of Alton Town on Monday.

The results have moved Wintney up to seventh in the Combined Counties Premier league,

and will be looking to leapfrog ahead of Windsor during their final four games of the season.

Wintney return to action this evening with a trip to Molesey, before hosting Colliers Wood United at the weekend.

Elsewhere, Whitchurch United were able to record their first

points of the month with a 3-0 win against Fawley last Saturday, before slumping to a 3-0 loss at home to Alresford Town on Monday.

The Jam Boys' recent form has seen them drop to 11th in the Wessex Premier League, with just two games of the season

remaining.

Meanwhile, Tadley Calleva were denied a win at Wessex First Division leaders Andover Town, with the hosts equalising in the dying moments for a 1-1 draw.

It came after Calleva were beaten 2-1 away to United Serv-

ices Portsmouth last Saturday, keeping the club fifth in the standings.

They host Fleet Spurs in their final game of the season on Saturday, while Whitchurch travel to Sholing this evening before facing Bournemouth Poppies at the weekend.

Sport Bites

Graham departs after two seasons

BASINGSTOKE Bison defenceman Carl Graham has left the club, it was announced on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old had been with Bison for the past two seasons, making 110 competitive appearances during that time.

He was part of the squad that won the English Ice Hockey Premier League Cup and Playoff crown this season, as well as finishing second in the league.

'Stoke aim to win Hampshire Cup

DOWN Grange is the scene for Basingstoke RFC's last game of the season on Saturday, as they face Havant in the Hampshire Cup Final at 3pm.

'Stoke went straight into the final after being handed a walkover against Portsmouth before their semi-final clash was due to take place last weekend.

Head coach James Croker will be looking to end the season with a win, after his side were relegated from National League Three London earlier this month.

Mickey moves to top of rankings

WINKLEBURY snooker ace Mickey Joyce has moved to top spot of the Cuestars South of England Under-21 Silver Tour rankings, after collecting his second trophy of the season at Fareham Snooker Club.

He beat team-mate Dan Sykes 2-1 in the final, after coming through a difficult match against Austen Petty in the semi-finals.

Joyce was also able to record the highest break of the tournament, as he chalked up a 38.

He is now up against four other players for the Silver Rankings title, with one tournament remaining at Salisbury Snooker Club on May 4.

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Inside: Good points haul for Collard and Foster | Wins for Wintney and Whitchurch, but Calleva can only draw

Brace from Enver-Marum gives Basingstoke first victory in six TOWN END WINLESS RUN AGAINST WESTON

JASON Bristow praised Liam Enver-Marum's goal return as the striker grabbed a brace in Basingstoke Town's 3-2 win over Weston-super-Mare on Easter Monday.

The victory saw the Dragons end a six-match winless run in the Skrill South and bounce back from a 2-1 defeat at champions Eastleigh on Good Friday.

Shaun McAuley was also on the scoresheet for Town but it was Enver-Marum, who has netted six goals in as many starts, who caught the eye.

Bristow said: "Liam has got six goals in six starts for the club and that is a fantastic return.

"It just shows what we've been missing in terms of goals.

"Once again, he took his goals really well on Monday.

"He rounded the keeper for the first one, showing great composure, and he had a lot of time to think about the second one and finished very coolly.

"I'm really pleased with what he's done since he joined us."

Basingstoke are currently 15th in the table and, after a frustrating period, Bristow was delighted

By Jack Johnson

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

with Monday's win.

He said: "Weston are a good side and had plenty of possession but credit to the players as they had a really tough game on Friday.

"I thought they deserved all they got on Monday, stuck to their guns and got the three points, which I thought their effort and commitment deserved."

Town were in action against Concord Rangers as the Observer went to press last night. Bristow's men travel to Staines Town for their last game on Saturday and Bristow is targeting a positive finish.

"We've always said that we want to finish as strongly as we can," he added.

"The strongest way we can finish is with two wins and that's what we have got to aim for.

"We know both games are going to be very tough and we will have to work very hard to get the points we want."



• Liam Enver-Marum is congratulated by Jason Bristow after giving Basingstoke the lead (Picture by Les Chase)

Basingstoke Town 3
Weston-super-Mare 2

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